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My name is Jay Paretzky, I live in Westport and I have been a volunteer EMT with Westport Volunteer EMS since January 1980. I am here to ask for your support of Raised Bill 5809.

I am member of the Ct EMS Advisory Board and I am the Chair of the CT EMS Volunteer Committee, a Committee of the Advisory Board. Currently there are 6,966 Medical Response Technicians, down from 7,506 in 2006, 10,435 EMT's, down from 10,696 in 2006, 801 EMT-Intermediates, down from 913 in 2006 and 1,873 Paramedics up from 1,820 in 2006.

There are 409 EMS instructors, no change from 2006

The total number of Licensed or Certified individuals in Connecticut EMS was 20,484 at the end of 2007; it was 21,346 at the end of 2006.

As more services report an increase in call volume, we find it more difficult to provide the high level of pre-hospital emergency medical services due to several issues. Not having adequate personnel is one major problem faced by both Paid and volunteer services.

Retention of EMS personnel, training, testing and the cost for equipment contribute to services not always performing to the level of patient care they want to provide.

By supporting Raised Bill 5809, we can have an independent study to review the current status of EMS here in Connecticut and make recommendations for needed improvements to insure the residents and visitors' to our State will receive the highest level of emergency medical care possible.

Thank you

Jay B. Paretzky